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July 1, 2003

Mark B. Quatt

Mark B. Quatt Registration No. 30,484

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E. J. J. J.
7/8/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Evangelisti et al.
Serial No.: 09/830,245
Filing Date: July 9, 2001
Title: Vacuum Packaging Machine

Docket No: 42837-01
Group Art Unit: 3728
Examiner: Stashick, Anthony D.

Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

This response is being filed concurrently with an RCE, and in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 26, 2003, and further to a Notice of Appeal filed June 6, 2003.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

22 (twice amended). A vacuum packaging machine for performing a vacuum sealing operation on product packages, comprising a permanently vertical stack of vacuum chambers each arranged to receive at least one unsealed product package and operable to perform an independent vacuum sealing operation on the at least one product package.

Remarks

Claims 22 to 42 remain in the application.

Claim 22 has been again amended.